

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 EA-07 /087 W
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R 061210Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8154

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG GB ST

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT:
GABON AND SAO TOME POSITIONS

REF: STATE 178439, STATE 181500

SUMMARY: GOG FONMIN HAS REAFFIRMED GABONESE SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA PREVIOUSLY PROMISED BY PRESIDENT BONGO. APPROACH TO STP THROUGH RESIDENT CHARGE INCONCLUSIVE, BUT MAY HELP WEAN GSTP AWAY FROM AUTOMATIC SUPPORT OF CUBANS ON PUERTO RICO. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BRIEF MEETING AUGST 6 ON EVE HIS DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO, GOG FONMIN OKUMBA REAFFIRMED GABONESE SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA PREVIOUSLY PROMISED BY PRESIDENT BONGO TO GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND TO ME. OKUMBA SAID WE NEED HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT FIRMNESS OF GABONESE STANCE ON THESE ISSUES, ON WHICH THEY FULLY SHARE OUR VIEWS. OKUMBA ADDED THAT HE WOULD MAKE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF MATERIALS I GAVE HIM (AIDE-MEMOIRES ON BOTH QUESTIONS PLUS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH AND OF DPRK TREATIES WITH PRC AND USSR), BOTH IN BRIEFING HIS OWN COLLEAGUES AND WITH OTHER DELEGATION.

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2. SAME MATERIALS DELIVERED AUGUST 4 TO RESIDENT STP CHARGE CAVALHO. AIDES-MEMOIRES WENT UNDER COVER OF PERSONAL NOTE FROM ME TO GSTP FONMIN D'ALVA, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GSTP WILL TAKE CAREFUL ACCOUNT OF USG VIEWS IN FORMULATING ITS POSITIONS ON TWO ISSUES CITED. CAVALHO WAS NON-COMMITAL, BUT PROMISED TO FORWARD MY NOTE AND OTHER TEXTS BY FIRST AVAILABLE POUCH AUGUST 6.

3. ON KOREAN ISSUE, GABONESE ASSURANCES ALSO REITERATED TOROK AMBASSADOR KIM BY BOTH FONMIN AND PRESIDENT BONGO. KIM HAS PROPOSED TO FORMER THAT HIS GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH ATO COLOMBO INCLUDE PROPOSAL THAT ROK BE ADMITTED TO NAM ON GROUNDS IT IS NO MORE ALIGNED THAN DPRK, BUT IS NOT YET SURE WHETHER OKUMBA WILL BE WILLING GO THIS FAR.

4. COMMENT: GABONESE CAN BE COUNTED ON TO HOLD THE LINE ON KOREAN AND PUERTO RICAN ISSUES, AND NOT TO BE DRAGGED AGAIN INTO HOSTILE CONSENSUS AS OCCURRED ON LATTER QUESTION AT LAST YEAR'S LIMA SESSION. IN ABSENCE PRESIDENT BONGO FROM COLOMBO MEETING, HOWEVER (BECAUSE OF CONFLICT WITH GABONESE INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES), LESS CERTAIN HOW EFFECTIVE GABONESE DELEGATION WILL BE IN INFLUENCING OTHERS IN OUR DIRECTION. AS FOR SAO TOME, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD GSTP WILL DESERT ITS DPRK FRIENDS, HAVING CONSISTENTLY REFUSED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK, BUT WE CAN HOPE THAT OUR FIRM STANCE ON PUERTO RICO MAY ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAND CLEAR OF CUBAN STEAMROLLER. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV01553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760303-0909
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760877/aaaacpip.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 178439, 76 STATE 181500
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT: GABON AND SAO TOME POSITIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, GB, ST, US, RQ, CU, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD), (OKUMBA D'OKWATSEGUE, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006